



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUL 03 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL 7010 1060 0002 1705 4570
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Robert Smith, Sr.
City of Columbus
P.O. Box 140
Columbus, Mississippi 39703

Re: Withdrawal of Notice of Violation
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No.: MS0056472
Ridgley Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Mayor Smith:

On June 9, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 sent a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the City of Columbus (the City). The EPA sent this NOV to the City because the EPA mistakenly believed the City owned and operated the Ridgley Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and its associated Wastewater Collection and Transmission System (WCTS). As Columbus Light and Water owns and operates the WWTP and the WCTS, the EPA is withdrawing this NOV.

Please contact Ms. Sara Schiff of my staff at (404) 562-9870 or by email at schiff.sara@epa.gov, if you have any questions regarding this letter. You may also address written correspondence to Ms. Schiff at the above address on the letterhead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Giattina", written over a horizontal line.

James D. Giattina
Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Chris Sanders
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Todd Gale
Columbus Light and Water



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JUN 9 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL 7010 1060 0002 1705 3665
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Robert Smith, Sr.
Mayor, City of Columbus
P.O. Box 140
Columbus, Mississippi 39703

Re: Notice of Violation
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No.: MS0056472
Ridgley Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Mr. Smith:

On September 27, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 sent an Information Request Letter (Request) pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1318, to the City of Columbus (the City) requesting information related to Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) from the City's Wastewater Collection and Transmission System (WCTS). On April 8, 2014, the EPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) of the City's WCTS associated with the Ridgley Wastewater Treatment Plant owned and operated by the City. The inspection results are summarized in the enclosed CEI report.

The EPA's review of the City's response to the Request and the information gathered pursuant to the aforementioned CEI has revealed that the City has violated the CWA and requirements of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Specifically, the EPA has determined that the City has violated the CWA and the NPDES Permit as follows:

During the period of March 2008 to September 2013, the City had 11 SSOs totaling 8,744,000 gallons of untreated sewage that discharged from the City's WCTS to navigable waters of the United States as defined by Section 502 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362. Such SSOs were not authorized by the NPDES Permit and are therefore violations of Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). In addition, the City had six SSOs totaling 491,000 gallons of untreated sewage that was released from the WCTS and did not reach navigable waters of the United States. All 17 SSOs are indicative of the City's violation of Permit Condition T-28 of the City's NPDES Permit, which requires the City to properly operate and maintain its WCTS and Permit Condition T-29 of the City's NPDES Permit, which requires the City to minimize or prevent discharges from the system.